

SMASHING OBSTACLES & BUILDING LEGACIES

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Laing School and Freedmen's Schools



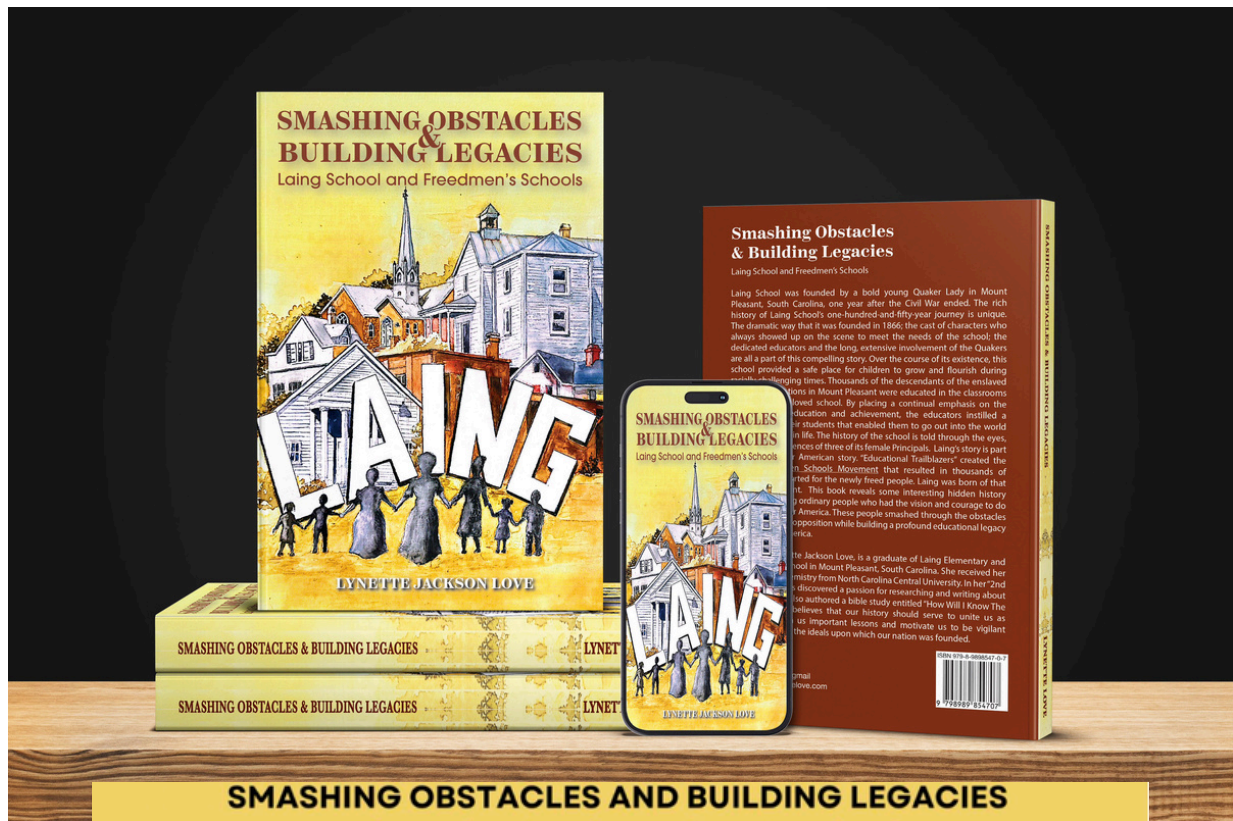
LYNETTE JACKSON LOVE

Greetings. I'm Lynette!

AUTHOR | RESEARCHER | HISTORY BUFF

I was raised up in the historic " Old Village" section in Mount Pleasant, SC. I am a graduate of a Laing School, just like my mother and family members going back several generations. I also graduated from Moultrie High School and N. C. Central University. I hold a B. S. Degree in Chemistry. I am a lover of history, especially the rich black history in the SC "Lowcountry."





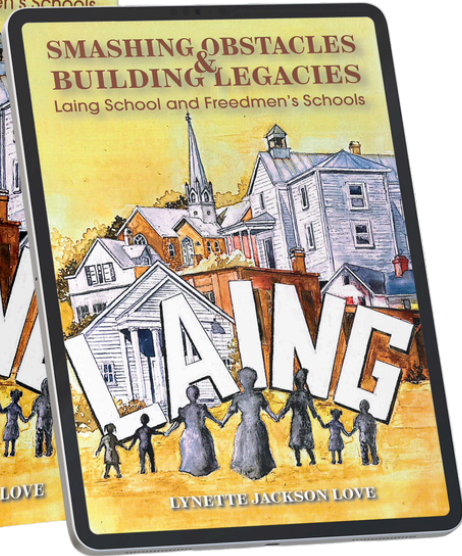
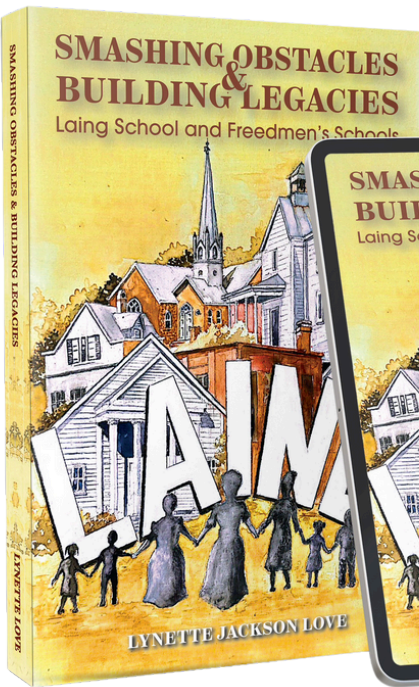
SMASHING OBSTACLES AND BUILDING LEGACIES
Laing School and Freedmen's Schools
 By Lynette Jackson Love

A Civil War, Freedmen, Quakers, Reconstruction and a Beloved School.

This story begins with the fall of Charleston in 1866 when Union Soldiers, including Colored Troops, marched victoriously into that city and were received with an outpouring of joy by thousands of people that had been enslaved. One year later, just outside of Charleston, a young Quaker lady named Cornelia Hancock started Laing School. Laing served multiple generations of the descendants from the many plantations in Mt. Pleasant, SC for over 150 years. From Cornelia's letters we learn details about the Union soldiers, the Freedmen's Bureau agents and the Colored Soldiers (USCT) stationed in Mt Pleasant during Reconstruction. She had worked closely with the Freedmen's Bureau to get the resources needed for the School. Laing was blessed to have had a long line of determined, tough, and very dedicated educators who kept that school going for over a century and a half. I tell the story of Laing's history through the eyes, words and experiences of three of its female Principals.

Laing's story is unique, but it is also representative of the thousands of schools that were built during the Freedmen Schools Movement. Most of these schools didn't survive. As the southern plantation system began to crumble during the Civil War, thousands of the enslaved ran to freedom behind Union lines. They ended in up in "Contraband" camps where they encountered suffering, sickness and death. Freedmen Schools began in these camps. This is the part of my research that brought me to tears. But the way that Americans responded to the resulting humanitarian crisis in those camps served to bolster my faith in people.

This book highlights hidden history and and the ordinary Americans who had the courage to do what was right for America. These trailblazers created the Freedmen Schools Movement which was a profound educational legacy that changed America.



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Laing School 1868



Freedmen escaping to the Union Army. 1862



Escaped enslaved boys in rags. 1861



Cornelia Hancock



Abby Munro



Miriam Moore Brown

Reviews

Love this book! Great historical information. It is a fascinating reference of how the community and school grew in the Mt. Pleasant area. I recommend all who live and familiar with the entire community to read this book! Great work! I am a proud product of this history. Thank you for your work!

I found the accounts of these courageous, steadfast educators (three women principals, in particular) to be inspirational.... A look into the will of determination and the goodness of the human spirit....loved it!

I thoroughly enjoyed reading about the history and upbringing of many that could have been lost in time. I was intrigued by the wealth of information & visuals that brought this book to life! Author Lynette has a profound skill, of bringing memories & history into the minds of today's society. This is surely a book that can be revisited countless times. I look forward to the next project she brings to peek into her thoughts. EXCELLENT writing.



Speaking at Boone Hall Plantation, Feb. 2024

Let's Connect!



GET IN TOUCH
Contact@LynetteLove.com
www.LynetteLove.com

For media inquiries, interviews, or additional information, please reach out to Lynette Love, Author, at contact@LynetteLove.com or 704-965-1266.

You are also warmly invited to visit www.LynetteLove.com, where you can explore further the rich history of Laing School and its enduring legacy. I welcome your questions and look forward to sharing this inspiring story with you.

Lynette